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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/820,472	03/28/2001	Paul W. Bennett	5676-00100	5659

7590 06/15/2004  
Jeffrey C. Hood  
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EXAMINER

BASEHOAR, ADAM L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/820,472

Applicant(s)

BENNETT, PAUL W.

Examiner

Adam L Basehoar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: The Application filed on 03/28/01.
2. Claims 1-28 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 11, and 18 are independent claims.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft Excel 2000 (pp. 1-11: Copyright 1985-1999).

-In regard to independent claims 1, 11, and 18, Excel 2000 teaches a method, system, and computer program comprising:

a CPU, display screen, and memory;

displaying a window on the display screen (Fig. 1), wherein the window comprises a plurality of fields arranged in a matrix having a plurality of rows (Fig. 1: 1-16) and a plurality of columns (Fig. 1: A-H);

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means for entering a first set of numeric values (Fig. 1: "3", "4", etc) in a first plurality of number fields (Fig. 1: C5, C6, etc), wherein the first plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on a display screen (Fig. 1: C5-C9);

entering a first set of one or more mathematical operators (Fig. 1: "\*", "/", SUM(C5:C8), etc) in a first set of one or more operation fields (Fig. 1: C9-C12), wherein the first set of operation fields are displayed in columnar format on a display screen (Fig. 1: C9-C12);

automatically (Fig. 11: Shows All Calculations Set to Automatic) calculating a first result by applying the first set of mathematical operators to the first set of numeric values (Reference Fig. 2 Field C5 and Fig. 3 Field C5, wherein the numeric value was changed from 3 to 5 which automatically calculated the new result value using the mathematical operator in C9 which sums the values in C5-C8 with the result changing from 19 to 20);

and displaying the first result on the display screen (Fig. 1: C9 & C12);

means for entering a second set of numeric values (Fig. 1: "7", "8", etc) in a second plurality of number fields (Fig. 1: F5, F6, etc), wherein the second plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on a display screen (Fig. 1: F5-F9) in a different column than the first set of numeric values (Fig. 1: Columns C & F);

entering a second set of one or more mathematical operators (Fig. 1: "\*", "/", SUM(F5:F8), etc) in a second set of one or more operation fields (Fig. 1: F9-F12), wherein the second set of operation fields are displayed in columnar format on a display

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screen (Fig. 1: F9-F12) in a different column than the first set of mathematical operators (Fig. 1: Columns C & F);

automatically (Fig. 11: Shows All Calculations Set to Automatic) calculating a second result by applying the second set of mathematical operators to the second set of numeric values (Reference Fig. 2 Field F5 and Fig. 3 Field F5, wherein the numeric value was changed from 7 to 10 which automatically calculated the new result value using the mathematical operator in F9 which sums the values in F5-F8 with the result changing from 34 to 37);

and displaying the second result on the display screen (Fig. 1: F9 & F12);

-In regard to dependent claims 2, 12, and 19, Excel 2000 teaches displaying the first result (Fig. 1: C9) in a same column (Fig. 1: Column C) as the first set of numeric values (Fig. 1: C5-8); and

displaying the second result (Fig. 1: F9) in a same column (Fig. 1: Column F) as the second set of numeric values (Fig. 1: F5-8).

-In regard to dependent claims 3, 20, 21 Excel 2000 teaches entering a first character string (Fig. 1: D6: "Comment1") which was associated with one of the first set of numeric values (Fig. 1: C5-C8);

displaying the first character string (Fig. 1: D6: "Comment1") in a comment field adjacent (Fig. 1: D6) to the one of the first set of numeric values (Fig. 1: C5-C8);

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entering a second character string (Fig. 1: G6: "Comment1") which was associated with one of the second set of numeric values (Fig. 1: F5-F8); and

displaying the second character string (Fig. 1: G6: "Comment1") in a comment field adjacent (Fig. 1: G6) to the number field associated with one of the second set of numeric values (Fig. 1: F5-F8).

-In regard to dependent claims 4, 15, and 22, Excel 2000 teaches entering a first numeric value (Fig. 5: "8") in a number field in an upper line (Fig. 5: C14);

automatically shifting an entry point to a number field in a lower line (Fig. 6: C15) after entering the first numeric value; and

entering a next numeric value (Fig. 6: "9") in the number field in the lower line (Fig. 6: C15).

-In regard to dependent claims 5, 16, and 23, Excel 2000 teaches wherein the first set of numeric values comprises at least one formula (Fig. 1: C9 comprises formula SUM(C5:C8)).

-In regard to dependent claims 6, 17, and 24, Excel 2000 teaches the first set of numeric values (Fig. 5: C5 & C8) comprises at least one reference (Fig. 5: See Reference Arrows) to another numeric value in a field (Fig. 5: C12 which comprises C8/C5).

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-In regard to dependent claims 7, 25, Excel 2000 teaches entering character strings in the first plurality of number fields (Fig. 1: C3-C9); and  
entering character strings in the second plurality of number fields (Fig. 1: F5-F9).

-In regard to dependent claims 8, 26, Excel 2000 teaches determining a first set of output character strings (Fig. 1: C9 & C12) based on the first set of numeric values (Fig. 1: C9 & C12: "SUM(C5:C8)" & "C8/C5");  
displaying the first set of output character strings in the first set of number fields (Fig. 1: C9 & C12);  
determining a second set of output character strings (Fig. 1: F9 & F12) based on the second set of numeric values (Fig. 1: F9 & F12: "SUM(F5:F8)" & "F8/F5"); and  
displaying the second set of output character strings in the second set of number fields (Fig. 1: F9 & F12).

-In regard to dependent claims 9, 27, Excel 2000 teaches wherein the first set of number fields (Fig. 8: C4-C8) and the first set of operation fields (Fig. 8: D4-D5) are displayed in adjacent columns (Fig. 8: C & D) having a first single column label (Fig. 8: "Num1 & Op1 Fields"); and  
wherein the second set of number fields (Fig. 8: F4-F8) and the second set of operation fields (Fig. 8: G4-G5) are displayed in adjacent columns (Fig. 8: F & G) having a second single column label (Fig. 8: "Num2 & Op2 Fields").



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-In regard to dependent claims 10, 28, Excel 2000 teaches wherein a first field label (Fig. 9: D3: "Op1") was displayed for the first set of operation fields (Fig. 9: D4-D5); wherein a second field label (Fig. 9: C3: "Num1") was displayed for the first set of number fields (Fig. 9: C4-C8); wherein a third field label (Fig. 9: G3: "Op2") was displayed for the second set of operation fields (Fig. 9: G4-G5); and wherein a fourth field label (Fig. 9: F3: "Num2") was displayed for the second set of number fields (Fig. 9: F4-F8).

-In regard to dependent claims 13 and 14, Excel 2000 teaches wherein the user input comprises a first character string (Fig. 1: C4: "First Column") which is associated with one of the first set of input numeric values (Fig. 1: C5-C9);

displaying the first character string in a comment field in the first column (Fig. 1: C4);

wherein the user input also comprises a second character string (Fig. 1: F4: "Second Column") which is associated with one of the second set of input numeric values (Fig. 1: F5-F9); and

displaying the second character string in a comment field in the second column (Fig. 1: F4).

### ***Conclusion***

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5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US: 6,460,059	10-2002	Wisniewski
US: 6,138,130	10-2000	Adler et al.
US: 6,430,584	08-2002	Comer et al.
US: 5,021,973	06-1991	Hernandez et al.

Thomas Chester and Richard H. Alden, "Mastering Excel 97," 1997, SYBEX, Fourth Edition

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adam L Basehoar whose telephone number is (703) 305-7212. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7:30am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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ALB

  
STEPHEN S. HONG  
PRIMARY EXAMINER